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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

THE LITTLE PAPER WITH THE BIG IDEAS
Easy to Digest"

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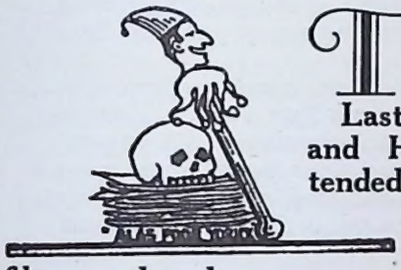
WHO BENEFITS WHOM AT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL?



THE International Film Festival is held at Venice. Last year Anna Neagle and Herbert Wilcox attended and "Victoria The Great" won the award for the best film produced.

A number of our film executives were present also, from America, including Mr. Joseph Schenck, Dr. Giannini, Phil Reisman, etc. This year Mr. Alexander Korda visited The Lido, at Venice.

We have been wondering whether any of the award-winners recoup from playdates throughout Italy, the expenses involved in presenting their films at Venice!

We wonder why our producer-distributors do not arrange to have the International Film Festival in a different country every year!

We wonder what is the importance of this International Film Festival to the public, or to the producer-distributor!

We wonder if the management of the cinema at The Lido, Venice, where the pictures are shown, pays for these films, since he charges an admission price to the public to see them.

We wonder why there is no one at the cinema theatre to receive the press, nor to supply the press with necessary information.

Having attended the International Film Festival, we wonder why we did!

"SNOW WHITE" AT LEYSIN

AT LEYSIN, Switzerland, there is a Cinema Theatre at which RKO Radio's "Snow White" is showing, but during the showing at the theatre, "Snow White" travelled to the various cliniques of the town.

During the performance at the cliniques, the theatre was closed.

The cliniques charge approximately 75 cents to see the picture. The admission price at the theatre is half that price. What puzzled your editor was the fact that the theatre and the cliniques appeared to be competitors, although one man, a physician, appeared to own the theatre, and to be the owner of the cliniques!

The cliniques' presentations are not only attended by the invalids under treatment there, but by the people from the town and neighboring towns, which of course, cuts down theatre attendance, as the film showing at the cliniques is not restricted to those who are resident at the cliniques.

It may be a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, since all the showings are under one management. But, The Digest could not help wondering why the theatre was closed when the film was shown at a clinique; and if the clinique film was taken from the theatre to the cliniques on a bicycle - - they use bicycles in this town.

It suggested ye olde time bicycling act before that kind of film transportation was outlawed.

However, we are not suggesting that this was being done at Leysin, but not being able to find the manager, as we were en-route to Genève, and at Genève being unable to get in touch with the RKO manager, as his office was locked because he was away from the city, we are trying to discover just what kind of show business this is!

The following picture billed at the theatre was "Romeo and Juliet," M-G-M's picture, with Norma Shearer and Leslie Howard. It, also, will go to the cliniques.

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

THE PURPOSE of a visit to Venice (spelled Venise in Italy), was to find out why Mr. Neville Kearney of the F.B.I., makes the International Film Festival, presented there, such an occasion of importance to the British and American Film Industry.

It takes courage to visit a country where one cannot speak nor understand the language; that is, if one is not on a pleasure, but a business tour.

It takes more courage to go to Venice in August, for Venice is famous not only for singing gondoliers and gondolas, but for heat and bad smells.

My experience at Venice confirmed the heat, bad smells, plus mosquitoes, the latter who managed to take 55 bites out of me before I retreated within the folds of a bed draped around with mosquito netting.

Being mosquito proof, because of the netting, is what I thought, but I did not count on the cunning wisdom of the mosquito who knows just where it can crawl under the bed, and in this manner buzz its way upward to give you a sting in the dark.

Being bitten by mosquitoes was the least of my troubles. When we arrived at Venice, Merryl Lea and myself, I found that the car had to be parked at a garage, because there was water, water everywhere, and the car which I had, and the cars which hundreds of others had, were not made to travel on water. All cars were left at this one and only garage, which charged you for storage there, in accordance with the horse-power of your car. I was lucky my car was an English one, and the charge was only seventy-five cents per day.

I MUST advise all those who are interested in attending the International Film Festival at Venice to buy their liras before going to Italy. The banks give you about 109 liras to the pound, which makes a lira worth about 4½ cents. When you reach the frontier of Italy, coming from Switzerland, the Fascist Government, which is interested in your visit to Italy, how long you are going to stay, exchange of money, and the sale of tourist liras gives you about 103 liras to the pound. When you get into Italy you only get 91 liras to the pound, which depreciates your pound value, and makes each lira cost you about 5½ cents, plus charges for bank, etc.

The Government representative sells you coupons for gasoline, and for your hotel, the latter in accordance with the classification as scheduled in the Royal Automobile Association's book of information.

These coupons for hotel accommodation are supposed to be tax free and are not taxable for service charges, that is what you are told. Your coupons for gasoline are in the same category, but you pay 2 liras extra at the gasoline station every time you use a coupon, if you use Esse gasoline.

The frontier officers are courteous, friendly, pleased that you are visiting Italy. You at once dispel all the fears associated with any rumours which you may have heard concerning the Fascist Government, and enter Italy ready for sunshine, opera, music and the International Film Festival.

I WILL omit, for the present, our visit to Stresa, Italy, our stop-over at Milan (Milano), and proceed directly to Venice.

Having parked the car, our next move is to telephone for hotel reservations.

There is a man who speaks English fairly well at the Information Bureau at Venice. He telephones for a hotel, but incidentally advises you where HE THINKS YOU SHOULD STAY.

We find that there is no accommodation at the Excelsior Hotel at The Lido, the swankiest of the hotels there, where the film magnates reside, nor in fact is there any accommodation at the other Lido hotels. So our plan is to stay in hot and smelly Venice, taking the steamer which runs frequently and daily to Lido, across the Grand Canal.

To reach a hotel at Venice, you go by gondola, the romantic gondola propelled by the more romantic gondolier, the opera-singing one you have heard about, read about, and even seen in pictures.

Since it is 11 p.m. when we arrive, and it is raining, since it takes one hour by gondola, I am told, to reach our hotel, we decide, we two Canucks, to go by motor boat, which costs four times as much, but only takes one half an hour, and looks safer. You see we are interested in living to tell the tale, for as you know, we are associated with an ambitious Digest, which has an International Press Film Service, and its service desires to see, hear and talk internationally.

We load the baggage on to the motor-boat, and chug-chug off to our hotel. The "boatswain", who is not a gondolier, smiles at us, so we make up our mind he is an amiable fellow interested in collecting liras, not bodies.

Metro's "Three Loves Has Nancy" Getting Excellent Grosses Across States

Digest Reviews and Previews

peaceful family and disrupting its serenity comes Felix, handsome young composer, who comes to live with the Lemps, and promptly steals the hearts of all the members of the family. However, it is Ann on whose heart he has designs, and the two soon announce their engagement. Shortly after, another newcomer arrives, disillusioned, cynical Mickey, who believes that the powers-that-be have it in for him, and will never let him succeed. Ann undertakes the regeneration of Mickey, and succeeds to the extent that he falls madly in love with her. Learning, on her wedding day, that Emma is very much in love with Felix also, Ann elopes with Mickey. The two live a hand-to-mouth existence for some time, Mickey being unable to make a success of anything. They return to the Lemp's home for Xmas; Ann discovers that Emma's love for Felix was just a girl's crush, and that she is now going to marry her childhood friend, Ernest. Mickey realizes that he is a misfit in this otherwise perfect group, and commits suicide, leaving the way open for Ann and Felix to find happiness together.

The plot, as you look at it above, may not seem to be any world-beater, but thanks to the excellent dialogue, and the brilliant performances of the various members of the cast, this picture looks set for exceptional grosses. Heading the cast are Priscilla, Rosemary and Lola Lane, Claude Rains, May Robson, Gale Page, Dick Foran, Frank McHugh, and two newcomers, Jeffrey Lynn and John Garfield.

Of the girls, Priscilla Lane is the surprise of the picture, doing a grand job with dramatic material of a kind she has never before been requested to handle. Gale Page also scores effectively, and May Robson is swell.

Of the men, Claude Rains turns in another of his fine performances, Frank McHugh is as funny as ever, and Dick Foran, formerly a Western star, does some good work. However, the newcomers steal the spotlight, with both Lynn and Garfield definitely pointed as "finds". Lynn is quite handsome and will do well in the lighter stories, but Garfield who plays "Mickey", promises to be one of the most successful dramatic stars of the year. His acting is something to really rave about, and will remind you a great deal of another great dramatic star's work, namely that of Paul Muni. Garfield previously appeared on the New York stage in "Susan and God", and "Having Wonderful Time".

Michael Curtiz directed "Four Daughters", and much credit must go to him for his contribution to the production. Credit also goes to Julius J. Epstein, author of the screenplay.

Tie-ups can be arranged on this picture with music stores in your community, and with many other merchants. The picture is worth taking considerable time in planning your campaign, for you will be well rewarded if you sell the film properly.

Running time—85 minutes.

PERSONAL MUSINGS

LAST week we scored a scoop with the report of Ben Ulster's engagement, and this week Dan Cupid again provides us with another scoop. Alice Muller, assistant to the cashier at Warner's Toronto office, surprised her friends and fellow-employees by displaying a plain gold band on the third finger of her left hand, on returning from her holidays, Tuesday. Congratulations!

The RKO exchanges are buzzing with activity this week, as they enter on a new Sales Drive. The Toronto office, under Branch Manager Frank Meyers, is particularly keyed up, hoping to better the mark they set in the Ned E. Depinet Drive, in which they finished tied for second place.

A veritable horde of exhibitors swooped down on Toronto's Film Row following the holiday. Among those we spotted around town were F. Knight, Temple, Blenheim; Messrs. Graham and Hogarth of the Rio, Essex, and the Roxy, Kingsville; Leonard Lush, Berford, Wiarton; C. T. Ross, Royal, Bowmanville; Chris Georgas, Savoy and Classic, Owen Sound; F. P. Hannan, Royal, Windsor; Jack Allen, Tivoli, Thorold; Dick Garratt, Imperial, Barrie, and B. Biamonte, Hollywood, Niagara Falls.

Meyer Axler, 20th Century Theatres, Toronto, "Having Wonderful Time" on his holidays.

You should hear the fish stories Dan Krendel, Tivoli, Toronto, is trying to make the boys believe. However, where there's smoke, there's supposed to be fire, so maybe he did catch a minnow or two.

F. O'Byrne's exhibit for Associated Screen News at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, has been creating a great deal of interest in movie-making. It is one of the finest exhibits at the Fair and hearty congratulations are in order for all those connected with the laying-out of the exhibit.

Mike Wilkes special promotion manager for United Artists, on his return from Ottawa, reports that exhibitors in the Capital City are most enthusiastic about the current "Motion Pictures' Greatest Year" Drive, and are going over the top by way of exploiting the Campaign.

That Ottawa is "swing conscious" was clearly shown recently when Dave Gill, local promoter, packed nearly 3,000 fans into the Ottawa Auditorium for a one-night engagement of Cab Calloway and his swingsters.

Although Bingo is supposed to be prohibited in Toronto, Bill Beasley, who incidentally has what is almost a monopoly of concessions at the "Ex", has several games going strong at the Fair Grounds.

Bill Popham, Elite Theatre, Kamsack, Sask., was a recent visitor to Winnipeg.

"Hit-It", successor to the "Yo-Yo" in the affections of the younger generation, has made quite a hit in these parts. With their usual sagacity, the B. and F. Circuit are taking advantage of the current fad, and are sponsoring contests at the Prince of Wales, Grover, Scarboro, Gerrard, Century and Eastwood Theatres, for boys and girls, with 15 bicycles and 75 sweaters lined up as prizes.

The local Film Colony are all prepped up for the opening of Thorncliffe Park, one of the local racing establishments, which opens this Saturday. And talking of racing, there is a sport where ANYTHING, and I DO MEAN ANYTHING, can happen. Believe it or not, last week Arthur Gottlieb's famous two-year-old, Ontegra, which has already cost the boys many, many dollars, finally won a race, at Stamford Park. The pay-off is that the horse, which has been a many times starter, but a no times winner, only paid off at approximately 2-1.

"Pay L."

"Motion Pictures' Greatest Year"

CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRYING ADS

THE following is a list of the newspapers in Canada carrying paid advertisements on the campaign.

ALBERTA — Albertan, Calgary; Herald, Calgary; Bulletin, Edmonton; Journal, Edmonton; Herald, Lethbridge; News, Medicine Hat.

QUEBEC — Le Quotidieu, Levis; Le Canada, Montreal; Le Devoir, Montreal; Gazette, Montreal; L'Illustration Nouvelle, Montreal; La Patrie, Montreal; La Presse, Montreal; Star, Montreal; Chronicle-Telegraph, Quebec; L'Action Catholique, Quebec; L'Evenement-Le Soleil, Quebec; Le Journal, Quebec; Record, Sherbrooke; La Tribune, Sherbrooke; Le Nouvelliste, Three Rivers.

NEW BRUNSWICK — Gleaner, Fredericton; Mail, Fredericton; Times, Moncton; Transcript, Moncton; Citizen, Saint John; Telegraph Journal & Times-Globe, Saint John.

NOVA SCOTIA—News, Amherst; Gazette, Glace Bay; Chronicle-Star, Halifax; Herald-Mail, Halifax; News, New Glasgow; Post-Record, Sydney; News & Citizen Sun, Truro.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND — Guardian, Charlottetown; Patrio, Charlottetown.

ONTARIO — Intelligencer, Belleville; Expositor, Brantford; Recorder & Times, Brockville; News, Chatham; Times-Journal, Ft. William; Reporter, Galt; Mercury, Guelph; Spectator, Hamilton; Whig-Standard, Kingston; Record, Kitchener; Post, Lindsay; Free Press, London; Review, Niagara Falls; Times, Oshawa; Citizen, Ottawa; Le Droit, Ottawa; Journal Dailies, Ottawa; Sun-Times, Owen Sound; Examiner, Peterborough; News-Chronicle, Port Arthur; Guide, Port Hope; Standard, St. Catherines; Times-Journal, St. Thomas; Canadian Observer, Sarnia; Star, Saulte Ste. Marie; Beacon-Herald, Stratford; Press, Timmins; Globe & Mail, Toronto; Star, Toronto; Telegram, Toronto; Tribune, Welland; Star, Windsor; Sentinel-Review, Woodstock-Ingersoll.

BRITISH COLUMBIA — Free Press, Nanaimo; Herald, Nanaimo; News, Nelson; British Columbian, New Westminster; Empire, Prince Rupert; News, Prince Rupert; Times, Trail; News-Herald, Vancouver; Province, Vancouver; Sun, Vancouver; Colonist, Victoria; Times, Victoria.

MANITOBA — Sun, Brandon; Graphic, Portage La Prairie; Northern Mail, The Pas; Free Press, Winnipeg; Tribune, Winnipeg.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

IF you and other theatres in your locality haven't gotten started better do so IMMEDIATELY!

Scores of cities are reporting that they have formed exhibitor committees and have started to function. *Have you?*

Twenty-two cities report getting proclamations from their mayors. Three report proclamations from their governors. *How about you?*

Nearly 100 cities report that exhibitor committee has visited newspapers and secured promises of unusual editorial support; special stories; full page ads; editorials, etc. *Have you done this?*

Dozen cities report raising special fund among all theatres to pay for street decorations, parades, and other demonstrations to mark opening of season. *What are you doing on this?*

Orders pouring in for Movie Quiz booklets, trailers, etc. *Have you estimated your needs and placed order?*

More than 100 cities report tieups with Chambers of Commerce and other civic organizations. *And you?*

THORGERSEN TRAILER READY

TRAILER No. 6 of Motion Pictures' Greatest Year, featuring a running comment by Ed Thorgersen, noted sports newsreel commentator, on the $250,000 "Movie Quiz" contest, is now in preparation at Associated Screen News, and will be released through the industry drive exchanges in the near future.

The Thorgersen trailer delivers the commentator's crisp talk against flashes illustrative of the contest. It opens with montage shots with dialogue showing public reaction to news of the contest, fades into a close-up of Thorgersen talking, and switches, with the commentator's voice doing the explaining, to illustrations indicating what to do in order to enter the contest.

The Campaign committee, in this trailer as in others puts great value on terseness and brevity, feeling that it would defeat the purpose of the Campaign to clutter up the screen with Campaign matter. Clarity and briefness is the keynote.

SASKATCHEWAN — Times Herald, Moose Jaw; Herald, Prince Albert; Leader-Post, Regina; Star, Regina; Star-Phoenix, Saskatoon.

The ads have also been placed in the News and the Telegram, St. John's Newfoundland, the latter which has been included with Canada in this Drive.

EXHIBITORS CHOOSE BEST PICTURES

"A YANK AT OXFORD"

"This M-G-M British effort seemed, more or less to please everyone. It is a fast-moving story, well-paced and well acted. Should suit both American and English audiences. Taylor does a good bit of work."

HARRY ALEXANDER,
Lansdowne Theatre,
Toronto, Ont.

"HELL DIVERS" "WIFE, DOCTOR, NURSE"

"Both these pictures did good business for us, and were well received by our patrons. The Metro re-issue is an action-packed drama that had the kids cheering themselves hoarse. The acting in the other production was very good, and the adults enjoyed it very much."

C. F. ENGLAND,
Bayview Theatre,
Toronto, Ont.

"THE TEXANS"

"This super-Western was our best bet for the month of August. The juvenile fans went for it in a big way, and it seemed to satisfy the grown-ups as well. May Robson did a particularly fine piece of work."

TOM DALEY,
Imperial Theatre,
Toronto, Ont.

"GOLD IS WHERE YOU FIND IT"

"This was undoubtedly our best picture for last month. Everyone remarked about the excellence of the color, and the acting of the principals came in for considerable praise. "Baroness and the Butler" was another good picture, but poor sound ruined its appeal here."

SAM LESTER,
Doric Theatre,
Toronto, Ont.

"WELLS FARGO"

"This is probably the best Western the screen has had in some time. Performances of Joel McCrea and Bob Burns came in for considerable favorable comment from our patrons, many of whom stopped to tell me how much they enjoyed the picture. Give us more like this."

C. J. WELSMAN,
Brighton Theatre,
Toronto, Ont.

Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Program Budget Estimated At $50,000

Fairweather in the Maritimes

By ALICE T. FAIRWEATHER

N. S. ALLIED HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

AT the annual meeting of the Allied Exhibitors of Nova Scotia held recently, A. J. Mason of The Capitol Theatre, Springhill, N.S. was re-elected President. The following officers were elected: Vice-President, W. H. Cuzner, Strand Theatre, Sydney Mines, N.S.; Secretary, T. J. Courtney, Casino Theatre, Halifax, N.S. Board of Directors: R. J. Macadam, Casino Theatre, Halifax, N.S.; N. W. Mason, Roseland and Academy Theatres, New Glasgow, N.S.; E. R. Lynn, Strand Theatre, Sydney, N.S.; A. A. Fielding, Strand Theatre, Saint John, N.B.; Seth Bartling, Astor Theatre, Liverpool, N.S.; Meyer Herschorn, Community Theatre, Halifax, N.S.

The gathering was held in Halifax at the Nova Scotian Hotel with a business session in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening to hear addresses from J. J. Fitzgibbons, Managing Director of Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Leo Devaney, Canadian General Manager, RKO Distributing Corporation, Haskell Masters, Canadian General Manager of United Artists Corporation and Paul Nathanson, Vice - President, Empire - Universal Films. A. J. Mason was chairman. The Toronto visitors spoke on the "Motion Pictures' Greatest Year" Campaign which they described in detail and answered questions on the plan. Votes of thanks to the speakers were moved by W. H. Cuzner of Sydney Mines and seconded by N. W. Mason of New Glasgow.

Attending from New Brunswick, were F. G. Spencer, President of the F. G. Spencer Company Limited; A. A. Fielding, General Manager of the F. G. Spencer Company Ltd.; A. E. Smith, Regal Films Limited, Saint John Exchange; P. J. Hogan, Paramount Film Service Limited, Saint John; A. E. Whelpley, RKO Distributing Corporation, Saint John Exchange; R. G. March, Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation, Saint John; Charles Chaplin, United Artists Corporation Limited, Saint John; J. M. Franklin, Franklin and Herschorn Theatres, Saint John and Halifax, N.S.; William Guss, Regal Films Limited, Saint John; Gordon Spencer, Strand Theatre, Saint John.

The Regional Committee appointed to carry out the Campaign plans were: A. J. Mason, W. H. Cuzner, R. J. Macadam, C. E.Walker, Bijou Theatre, Digby, N.S., Frank Sobey, Jubilee Theatre, Stellarton, N.S.

The Film Executives and the Saint John representatives were entertained at luncheon at Kentville en route from Saint John to Halifax, by Mr. F. G. Spencer, who is a member of the New Brunswick Regional Committee, and who is taking a keen interest in the Campaign.

LEW McKENZIE RETURNS

LEW McKENZIE of Vitagraph Limited Exchange, Saint John, N.B., has recently returned from a trip to Newfoundland. "Lew" was very lucky to get a return passage on the boat, as at this time of the year the travel is very heavy.

THE SUCCESS
of your
THEATRE
depends upon
GOOD EQUIPMENT
consult
GENERAL
THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY Ltd.
104 BOND STREET TORONTO • 336 MAYOR STREET MONTREAL

Stop ! Look ! Listen !

Harry Weedon, distinguished British architect has sailed for America to conduct a theatre site survey for Oscar Deutsch, English theatre magnate; Weedon will also cover Canada, in his search for possible theatre sites . . . Jeffrey Bernerd agrees to cancel his contract with G-B; report large sum involved in settling deal . . . Labor Day Holiday boosts Broadway grosses to new highs . . . B. P. Schulberg cancels agreement with Selznick-International by mutual consent, and is now dickering with United Artists to operate with his own production unit . . . . Columbia's net profit for year ending June 25, 1938, set at $183,392, compared to $1,317,771 in 1937 . . . Eddie Cantor and Darryl F. Zanuck disagree over story, and Cantor leaves 20th Century-Fox lot; is reported talking one picture deal with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer . . . Buddy Rogers and Guy Lombardo served with writs by Canadian Performing Rights Society at Can. Nat. Exhibition; Fair showing over 200,000 admission increase over last year in first week . . . A. W. "Andy" Smith, sales manager, United Artists, resigning post . . . Metro's "The Citadel", produced in England, is completed; Ben Goetz sailed Sept. 7 bringing first print to U.S. . . . Charles C. Pettijohn of the Hays' office, in a speech to the Wisconsin Motion Picture Reunion, states that the Industry is now at the crossroads, with a choice before it of self-regulation or government control; adds that first necessity in self-regulation is adoption of a principle of live and let live . . . "Marie Antoinette" doing landslide business in opening spots . . . Lee Tracy, Hollywood star, clicks with London audiences in lead role, replacing Raymond Massey in "Idiot's Delight" . . . Grand National - Educational announce minimum of 30 pictures for 1938-39 program . . . Expect Loew's Inc. net profit for year ending Aug. 31 to hit around $10,000,000, as compared with $14,426,062 for last year . . . Major Bowes' Amateur units start 4th year on the road . . . . NBC's August time sales up 5.6% over last year at $2,941,099; Columbia's off 27.2% at $1,423,865.

September Feature Release Dates

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

"Marie Antoinette" .....Sept. 5
"Three Loves Has Nancy".....Sept. 12
"Boys' Town" .....Sept. 19
*"Too Hot To Handle"**.....Sept. 26

UNIVERSAL

"Letter of Introduction" .....Sept. 3
"Road to Reno" .....Sept. 17
"Freshman Year" .....Sept. 24

COLUMBIA

"West of Santa Fe" .....Sept. 8
"Girls' School" .....Sept. 15
"Phantom Trail" .....Sept. 22
"You Can't Take It With You" Sept. 29

UNITED ARTISTS

"Drums" .....Sept. 30

*Originally scheduled for August release.

RKO RADIO

"Carefree" .....Sept. 9
"Affairs of Annabel" .....Sept. 16
"Renegade Ranger" .....Sept. 23
"Fugitives in the Night" .....Sept. 30

WARNER BROTHERS

"Four's A Crowd" .....Sept. 3
"Secrets of an Actress" .....Sept. 10
"Valley of the Giants" .....Sept. 17
*"Four Daughters"** .....Sept. 24

20TH CENTURY-FOX

"My Lucky Star" .....Sept. 2
"Safety in Numbers" .....Sept. 9
"Hold That Co-Ed" .....Sept. 16
"Time Out For Murder .....Sept. 23
"Straight, Place and Show"....Sept. 30

**Pre-release engagement, Uptown, Toronto, Sept. 15.

Circuits Eye Strand, Broadway New Policy. Hint Return Of Vaudeville Possible

Washington Film Digest

By GEORGE W. MEHRTENS

ARNOLD STRIKES AT ASCAP MONOPOLY OF MUSIC

Washington, D.C., Sept. 6—(CTP)

INDICATIONS that the Justice Department's Anti-Trust Division may press for amendment of United States copyright laws, as relating to movies, at the next session of Congress were given this week by Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold, in an address before the Convention of Independent Bankers Association at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Long a sore point between the motion picture industry and use of copyrighted songs has been the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. This week the radio industry too became involved in the squabble, which now threatens to be one of the major issues at the next Congress.

Although Arnold did not directly state that his division would ask for action in Congress against ASCAP he did throw a strong hint in that direction, when in speaking of the difficulty of drafting general laws, he said:

"For example, I can think of an amendment to the copyright law which would alleviate many of the evils of which the Government is complaining in its prosecution of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, commonly known as ASCAP. I can also think of amendments which would improve the situation with regard to the use of the copyright law in movies. If, however, I were forced to draft legislation in general terms which would apply both to the movies and to ASCAP, I would have an act which was completely unsuited either to the one or to the other. I would probably end in drafting no legislation at all."

In another portion of his speech Mr. Arnold declared that the problem of clearance, in exhibiting moving pictures, would not be settled by another decision in a different type of case, but rather each problem must be decided for itself.

"How are we going to discover the application of the anti-trust laws to a particular situation? The answer to this is that we can do it only by actual enforcement. A decision defining what are reasonable rules with respect to clearance in exhibiting moving pictures throws no light whatever on what is reasonable in controlling the surplus supply of milk. The law will never be defined in respect to movies until that particular case has been fought out."

RADIO ENTERS BATTLE

VITALLY affected by ASCAP, the radio industry through the National Association of Broadcasters, is taking steps to see what can be done about the alleged monopoly which ASCAP holds over popular music, the lifeblood of radio.

Sources close to the NAB stated this week that the Monopoly Committee on Capitol Hill will shortly be in possession of a letter from Neville Miller, newly-elected President of NAB, asking for a thorough investigation of ASCAP, and its affect upon the radio industry.

Mr. Miller will point out that radio is the largest user of music in this country, and will charge that ASCAP has price-fixing restraints, and is stifling music development.

The fur should fly on Capitol Hill next session if Mr. Arnold and the radio industry get together to fight ASCAP.

SOUTH AFRICA CENSORS

THE report of the Board of Censors of the Union of South Africa for the year ended December 31, 1937, shows that 1,520 motion picture films were censored during the year, that 1,415 were approved without excision, 73 were approved after certain excisions, and that 32 were rejected, according to Mr. Nathan D. Golden, chief of the Motion Picture Division of the Department of Commerce.

It is reported that Censorship is so strict in the Union of South Africa that exhibitors hesitate to offer films for review that may be rejected. It is interesting to note that six appeals were lodged against the decision of the Board, and that four of these were upheld.

Of the 1,520 films censored by the Board, 347 were classified as drama, 395 as comedy, 486 as newsreels, topical, interest and musical, and 292 as trailers.

NEW JOHANNESBURG HOUSES

FOUR new suburban theatres are planned for Johannesburg, South Africa, as a part of plans to provide Union-wide distribution of an American company's films, it is reported. All of the theatres will be privately owned, as the American distributing agency does not plan to operate except as distributors.

A recent announcement was to the effect that by the end of 1938, twenty-four theatres of the chain would be exhibiting.

CZECHS PASS 85

ACCORDING to a report from the office of the Commercial Attache at Prague, the Czechoslovak Board of Censors passed a total of 85 motion pictures, with a film length of 66,230 meters, during June, 1938, as against 98 pictures and 96,900 meters in the corresponding month of 1937.

The 18 features (dramas and comedies) authorized for showing in June, 1938, and the 166 such films authorized in the January-June, 1938 period were mostly from the United States, which had 90 of the 166 and 12 of the 18 pictures in June, 1938.

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EVERYTHING FOR THE THEATRE FROM SHEET TO STREET

U.S. National Chamber of Commerce Endorses "Motion Pictures' Greatest Year" Drive

Merryl Lea En Route Venice

WE have just passed through a little town in the Swiss Alps; here the manager has evidently gone classic. Last week RKO Grimm's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" delighted the local audience, and this week M-G-M's "Romeo and Juliet" is booked.

"ROMEO AND JULIET"

SHAKESPEARE'S "Romeo and Juliet" although its locale is Verona in Sunny Italy, will thrill the Swiss who live here in the Alps. However, after seeing Leslie Howard as "Romeo" our "Swiss Miss" will look but coldly upon the advances of her village swain, who yodels lustily. She will compare him to "Romeo" who softly serenaded "Juliet" neath her window. Alas, poor local 'yodeler', what can he do? He cannot be expected to chant softly, when at any moment a cloud may swiftly descend and float between him and his lady love!

While on the subject of clouds, I am reminded to say that for the last few days I have been looking for a unit which Mr. Victor Saville told me was in the Swiss Alps shooting scenes for a forthcoming British M-G-M picture. I hadn't found them and was beginning to think they were lost in a friendly all-enveloping cloud when I learned they were near Lucerne, which is quite a distance from where we are stopping at Montreux.

Incidentally, the casual way in which I refer to the clouds need not disturb or mystify you. Come to the Swiss Alps and touch the clouds! This is not a travel advertisement it is true! You can see clouds float below you; you may walk into a cloud, although they are not to be compared with London's dirty fogs! All I can say is—if you want to go to heaven on earth, come here, I'm expecting to sprout wings any day now!

REIMS CATHEDRAL

HERE I am talking of clouds and you are wondering how I arrived here, so close to heaven in Switzerland.

Last week I wrote from Reims, where we remained at the hotel, and couldn't go to the movies because of a miniature cloudburst. However, the next morning we awoke to see the sunrise, and to continue our journey without delay. Before us, stood Reims Cathedral. The city was quite still, but already people were coming to early morning Mass. Little children before school; young men and women before going to their daily work; old men and women — all wore a look of faith and exaltation as they knelt in prayer.

How beautiful is this House of Worship! During the war, Reims Cathedral suffered much damage and the work of restoration is still progressing. Now peace and prayer reign supreme.

REIMS TO SWITZERLAND

WE drove from Reims southward through the country famous for its champagne — 'glamorous' champagne, so patronized by the Moving Picture Industry, which makes a business of 'glamour'.

We drove through the agricultural region and what a pretty sight it was to see the words 'Massey Harris' painted in red letters on farm implements in the fields of France — a bit of Canadiana.

We continued on through France, not passing any big towns until we reached Besancon, which is very near the Swiss border. We spent quite a time trying to find a 'patisserie' where we could have tea. After dashing about and finding every restaurant a drinking and billiard saloon, and every patisserie closed because of the 40 hour week in France, we finally found a small bake shop which caters to English tea-drinkers.

However, the crowded streets indicated that Besancon was a good show town!

M-G-M AT LAUSANNE

WE arrived at Lausanne, Switzerland, at about 7 p.m. Situated on Lake Geneva, Lausanne is a very interesting city, and inhabited by a very cosmopolitan people. French, Swiss, German, Italian, English and Americans are there, as it is a key city in Switzerland.

M-G-M's "Le Ville Grande" ("The Big City") with Spencer Tracy and Luise Rainer, was playing there, and at The Metropole Theatre, "The Firefly" with Jeanette MacDonald and Alan Jones was featured. The theatre front, and marquee for "The Firefly" was very attractive, and in the 'American' manner.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

SWITZERLAND is a beautiful country. It is peaceful, picturesque, and tidy. Everything is clean and neat. The people are good workers, honest and wholesome. The valleys and terraced slopes are covered with grape vines, thousands of rows, which form an attractive landscape. The mountains rise, majestically against the sky.

We drove from Lausanne to Montreux, Vevey, and Aigle climbing in our car, thousands of feet, high up the mountain side. These roads wind up the mountain sides and one wonders at the miracle of such road-building. The first ride up can never be forgotten. You climb up and up. You pass waterfalls, you leave the world behind. All about you may be seen pine-trees thickly studding the mountain sides, and wild flowers growing between the tree trunks in profusion. You see snow-capped mountains in the distance, the sun shining on the scene. You seem to climb into the sky. Soon you see little clouds nestled in the hollow between two mountains down below. You drive into a cloud and out again — it is unreal; an unforgettable thrill. When you reach a very high level, the sight which greets your eyes when you survey the scene is indescribably beautiful! The panoramic view takes one's breath away — sun, sky, clouds, green mountains, dark green patches of pine trees, and little chalets on the mountain sides, which look like children's doll houses.

Here the people lead a very simple existence. They live mostly on cheese, bread, and that which they grow themselves. Meat, fish, fruit, are far too expensive for the people to afford — but they are healthy and happy. They told me their favorite movie star was Shirley Temple.

GENEVA

AT Geneva, which is just a fifty minute drive from Lausanne, around Lake Geneva, we visited the Palais De La Societe Des Nations, headquarters of the League of Nations.

Our guide was an American, a teacher at the University of Missouri. He introduced himself by saying that he was taking the place of the English guide who was having his lunch at the time. He said, "I hope you will be able to understand me". A German girl about 15 years of age spoke out of turn, "The English can't understand the Americans, you should learn how to speak English". "Well," replied our guide, a diplomatic member of the staff of the League of Nations, "it takes training on both sides."

After being shown the building, which is a magnificent one and very modern, we were shown the Rockefeller Library. Here may be found complete records of all official documents, laws, health reports, statistics, etc., of all countries. The various assembly rooms are decorated with murals, painted by representative artists of member countries.

"Alexander's Ragtime Band", Goes Fourth Week, Uptown, Toronto

Shooting the Stars

SIDNEY FRANKLIN, director of "The Good Earth" and many other M-G-M successes, has been elevated to the rank of producer by LOUIS B. MAYER; two important pictures of the current season were immediately assigned to Franklin for production, the first, Marjorie Kinman Rawling's best-seller, "THE YEARLING", to be followed by "MADAME CURIE", starring GRETA GARBO . . . UNIVERSAL has definitely signed ANATOLE LITVAK to direct DANIELLE DARRIEUX in "RIO"; starting date has been set for some time late in September . . . "NO LAW IN SHADOW VALLEY", and "STAGE COACH STOPS AT PINON GULCH", have been purchased by RKO RADIO as starring vehicles for GEORGE O'BRIEN under his new six-picture contract . . . WARNER BROS. have decided against making "WOMEN IN THE WIND", the new KAY FRANCIS picture, an all-women production, and have assigned WILLIAM GARGAN and VICTOR JORY to featured roles in the film . . . WARNER BAXTER has been named by DARRYL F. ZANUCK to head the cast of "KHYBER RIFLES", soon to go into production at 20th CENTURY-FOX . . . through arrangements concluded this week, SAMUEL GOLDWYN has loaned JON HALL to ALEXANDER KORDA for "THE THIEF OF BAGDAD"; SABU will be co-starred with Hall, the latter who will play the role created by Douglas Fairbanks . . . ANNE NAGEL, who has just finished work in "UNDER THE BIG TOP", has been assigned the feminine lead in MONOGRAM'S "GANG BULLETS" . . . REINHOLD SCHUNZEL, who in Europe launched Marlene Dietrich in her first screen role, has been awarded a long-term contract by METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER as a result of his success with his first American film, "RICH MAN, POOR GIRL" . . . EDWARD SUTHERLAND, one of Hollywood's leading directors, was signed this week to a four year contract as associate producer at the HAL ROACH STUDIOS . . . the fine work done by GARSON KANIN, making his screen debut as director of the EDWARD ELLIS - ANNE SHIRLEY - LEE BOWMAN film, "A MAN TO REMEMBER", has resulted in RKO RADIO exercising its option on his continued services . . . HUMPHREY BOGART, GEORGE BRENT and WALTER ABEL, the trio featured in the recent "RACKET BUSTERS", will be teamed again by WARNER BROS. in "THE BIGGER THEY ARE", a screenplay concerning politicians and rackets . . . RANDOLPH SCOTT has been signed by 20th CENTURY-FOX for the featured role of Sheriff Wright in "JESSE JAMES"; TYRONE POWER, HENRY FONDA and NANCY KELLY play the stellar leads.

Anita Louise, who has a prominent role in the M-G-M production, "Marie Antoinette".

Trans - Canada Showings

TORONTO

IMPERIAL
"Spawn of the North" (Paramount), starring George Raft, Henry Fonda and Dorothy Lamour.

LOEW'S
"The Crowd Roars" (M-G-M), starring Robert Taylor and Maureen O'Sullivan.

SHEA'S
"Army Girl" (Republic), with Madge Evans and Preston Foster, and "Prison Farm" (Paramount), with Lloyd Nolan.

TIVOLI
"Tropic Holiday" (Paramount), starring Dorothy Lamour, Bob Burns and Martha Raye, and "You and Me" (Paramount), starring George Raft and Sylvia Sidney.

UPTOWN
3rd week. "Alexander's Ragtime Band" (20th Century-Fox), starring Tyrone Power, Alice Faye and Don Ameche.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"Sing You Sinners" (Paramount), starring Bing Crosby and Fred MacMurray, and "Bulldog Drummond in Africa" (Paramount), with John Barrymore.

IMPERIAL
"Toy Wife" (M-G-M), starring Luise Rainer, with Melvyn Douglas and Robert Young, and "Mama Runs Wild" (Republic), with Mary Boland.

ORPHEUM
"Army Girl" (Republic), with Madge Evans and Preston Foster, and "Back Street" (Universal re-issue), starring Irene Dunne and John Boles.

PALACE
3rd week. "Alexander's Ragtime Band" (20th Century-Fox), starring Tyrone Power, Alice Faye and Don Ameche.

PRINCESS
"Return of the Scarlet Pimpernel" (London Films), starring Barry K. Barnes, and "The Gaiety Girls" (London Films), with Jack Hulbert and Patricia Ellis.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"Love Finds Andy Hardy" (M-G-M), starring Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland.

EMPIRE
"Midnight Madonna" (Paramount) with Warren William, and "52nd Street" (Wanger-U.A.), with Ian Hunter and Leo Carrillo.

PRINCESS
"Portia on Trial" (Republic), with Walter Abel and Frieda Inescourt, and "Something to Sing About" (G-N), starring James Cagney.

REGENT
"Girl of the Golden West" (M-G-M), starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy, and "Bulldog Drummond Comes Back" (Paramount), with John Barrymore.

STRAND
"She Had To Eat" (20th Century-Fox), with Jack Haley and Rochelle Hudson, and "Hold 'Em Navy" (Paramount), with Lew Ayres.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"Spawn of the North" (Paramount), starring George Raft, Henry Fonda and Dorothy Lamour.

GAIETY
"Adventures of Robin Hood" (Warners), starring Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland.

GARRICK
"The Goldwyn Follies" (Goldwyn-U.A.), starring Adolphe Menjou, Andrea Leeds, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy.

OSBORNE
"To The Victor" (G-B), starring Will Fyffe, and "Smash and Grab" (British), starring Jack Buchanan.

STARLAND
"Kidnapped" (20th Century-Fox), starring Warner Baxter and Freddie Bartholomew, and "Swiss Miss" (M-G-M), starring Laurel and Hardy.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"Spawn of the North" (Paramount), starring George Raft, Henry Fonda and Dorothy Lamour.

GARY
"Dark Journey" (London Films), starring Vivien Leigh and Conrad Veidt, and "Sh! The Octopus" (Warners), with Hugh Herbert.

PLAZA
"Adventures of Marco Polo" (Goldwyn-U.A.), starring Gary Cooper, and "Over the Goal" (Warners), with June Travis.

CRESCENT
"Victoria The Great" (RKO Radio), starring Anne Neagle and Anton Walbrook.

VARIETY
"Her Jungle Love" (Paramount), with Dorothy Lamour and Ray Milland, and "Prescription for Romance" (Universal), with Wendy Barrie and Kent Taylor.

VANCOUVER

DOMINION
"Lord Jeff" (M-G-M), starring Freddie Bartholomew and Mickey Rooney, and "Fast Company" (M-G-M), starring Melvyn Douglas and Florence Rice.

MUSIC BOX
"In Old Chicago" (20th Century-Fox), starring Tyrone Power, Alice Faye and Don Ameche.

ORPHEUM
"Little Tough Guy" (Universal), starring the "Dead End" kids. Also stage show.

PLAZA
3rd week. "Algiers" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Charles Boyer.

VICTORIA
"Test Pilot" (M-G-M), starring Clark Gable, Myrna Loy and Spencer Tracy.